



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

JAN 4 '19 PM 5:39

December 19, 2018

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

Thank you for your letter regarding my decision to reinstate a citizenship question on the 2020 Decennial Census questionnaire. I appreciate your perspective on U.S. Census Bureau issues and the time you have taken to share your concerns. Ensuring a complete and accurate Decennial Census is one of my most important duties and goals.

The documentation you requested is encapsulated in the Administrative Record and the supplemental record materials produced pursuant to an order from the U.S. District Court for the District of New York in response to recent litigation related to my decision. These documents were made available on the Department of Commerce Office of Privacy and Open Government website at the following link to ensure all such documents are available to the public: http://osec.doc.gov/opog/FOIA/FOIA_elibrary.html#records. Please note the links titled:

- “Materials considered by the Secretary in deciding to reinstate a question on citizenship”
- “Supplemental Production - 7.3.18 Court Order - Batch 1”
- “Supplemental Production - 7.3.18 Court Order - Batch 2”

My testimony to Congress has been truthful and candid. The questions to which I responded and the context of those conversations make clear that I was referring to my decision-making process and my thorough review of the Department of Justice’s request – not informal and hypothetical discussions predating that request.

Thank you for your inquiry. I look forward to continuing to work with the Census Bureau and the Members of Congress to ensure good governance for a complete and accurate 2020 Decennial Census.

If you have further concerns or questions, please have your staff contact Michael Platt, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

Wilbur Ross